

At 6 feet 10 inches tall, George Mikan was the first big man to display the agility, touch and skill to dominate basketball games. He was called the trunk of the NBA family tree and he helped the fledgling league draw record crowds in every city. Mikan's mere presence changed the rules of the game because he was so dominant. In fact, in an effort to stop George Mikan, the Mikan rule was invented which widened the lane underneath the basket.

With Mikan in the middle, the Minneapolis Lakers won six NBA championships in the late 1940s and early 1950s, including five of the first eight titles in the history of the NBA. On five separate occasions, George Mikan led the NBA in scoring. George Mikan is a charter member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Professional Basketball Hall of Fame. He was chosen one of the NBA's 50 greatest players.

But, Mr. Speaker, George Mikan's accomplishments outside basketball are just as impressive and reflect perhaps even greater determination. A successful attorney, business owner and civic leader, George Mikan was the first commissioner of the American Basketball Association. In that position, he once again helped revolutionize the game of basketball by implementing the three-point shot and other exciting changes. George Mikan has also overcome a great deal of difficulty in his lifetime. Today, George is taking on a very imposing opponent, the disease of diabetes. Again, George Mikan is showing great courage and determination and is a true inspiration to us all.

The original Mr. Basketball continues to make us proud. Today we salute him for his public service, leadership, inspiration and courage. Mr. Speaker, George Mikan is a great American and a legendary basketball player. Please join me in honoring this outstanding Minnesotan for his many contributions to the game of basketball and his many accomplishments off the court as well. George Mikan is truly deserving of this special congressional recognition.

TRIBUTE TO LU PALMER, CELEBRATED RADIO AND PRINT JOURNALIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would just add my voice to the accolades being given to George Mikan. He did his college basketball playing and attended DePaul University, which is in my congressional district. I can tell my friends from Minnesota that all of Chicago and Illinois are indeed proud of the accomplishments of George Mikan and the people at DePaul University salivate every time they hear his name. I join your comments.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to pay tribute to one of our

country's most celebrated and most effective print and radio journalists, Mr. Latrell "Lu" Palmer who is retiring and will be featured at a retirement celebration on April 14 at the Reverend Johnnie Coleman Complex, 119th and Loomis in Chicago.

Lu Palmer was born in 1922 in Newport News, Virginia, and attended its schools there. He then went on to Virginia University and earned a bachelor's degree in 1942. Later on, in 1947, he earned a master's degree from Syracuse University and later on went to Iowa State University in 1955 where he completed the course work for a doctorate's degree. Lu never wrote his dissertation so he ended up with what people called an ABCD, that is, all but the dissertation degree.

Lu Palmer then went on to have an outstanding career at the Chicago Daily Defender newspaper, the Chicago Courier, the Chicago American, the Chicago Daily News, and then established his own paper, the Black X Express, which he ran for several years. He also taught for 20 years, from 1970 to 1990 for the Association of American Colleges and Universities of the Midwest where he trained a large number of students to really understand urban life. Of course, Lu also worked at WBEE Radio and WVON Radio, was the editorial director for Congressman Ralph Metcalfe's communication vehicles and served as a public relations person for Michael Reese Hospital. He established the Black Business Network, Chicago Black United Communities, CBUC, which he operated for several years, and BIPO, the Black Independent Political Organization. He established Menhelco, a mental health program for boys who were suffering from mental retardation which continues to operate.

As much of a journalist as Lu was, he was really noted more for his community action, community involvement, and was called upon to speak in colleges and universities and banquets all over the country, as a matter of fact. He generally could not keep up. Plus he was very selective and did not just accept any speaking engagement. It had to be something that he called relevant and meaningful if he was to go. Lu was very actively involved in generating outrage when Mark Clark and Fred Hampton were killed by the Chicago police, and later on was probably the single most effective voice in the election of Harold Washington for mayor of the city of Chicago because Lu had a slogan and the slogan sort of said, "We shall see in '83," meaning that that is when the election was going to take place. Lu was called the drumbeat of the African American community. Everybody listened to his radio and everybody pretty much waited for WVON to come on in the evenings from 10 to 12 so that they could listen to "On Target" and Lu Palmer.

Lu finally decided that it was time to hang them up. He is about 80 years old with diabetes and all the other things

that would afflict one. But we would hope that he would put his memoirs together and that he would spend the rest of his life writing and putting in voice some renditions of that "We shall see in '83."

ON BEHALF OF THE 24 CREW MEMBERS HELD BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the 24 crew members held by the Chinese government. These brave men and women are based at the Naval Air Station Whidbey on Whidbey Island in Oak Harbor in my district in Washington State.

I first want to call on Beijing to return our honorable service men and women home. Four days is long enough. No, 4 days is too long. Our service members need to be released immediately.

Second, I want to honor the families of these crew members, both around the country and in the Whidbey Island community of Oak Harbor where the Naval Air Station is based. Their concern over the crew members is matched only by their strength and their bravery.

So not for my sake and not for the sake of anyone in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, but for the sake of the mothers and the fathers, the sisters and the brothers, the sons and the daughters and the wives, it is time for the Chinese government to return the crew members to their families. It is time for the Chinese government to return the plane to the United States.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA WILDCATS ON THEIR OUTSTANDING BASKETBALL SEASON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and pay tribute to the University of Arizona Wildcats on their outstanding basketball season. This is truly a special team which should be lauded for their courage and for their effort in the face of very, very difficult circumstances, both on and off the court.

As a U of A alum, I closely followed their amazing story. The Wildcats' victory in entering the Final Four perfectly captured their great season. In a rough and tumble fight, in a contest that the Wall Street Journal described as "equal parts rugby and hoops, with a little WWF thrown in," the Wildcats triumphed over a physically gifted University of Illinois squad. After the game, Illinois point guard Frank Williams said, "We gave them our best punch and they survived it."